

grant of recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House

- (vi) Small exporters with an average export turnover Rs. 2 crores in the proceeding three years or with a turn-over of Rs. 5 crores in preceding year have been made eligible for grant of Special Import Licence to give a special boost to exports of products manufactured in SSI sector. Special Import Licence entitlement to status holders has been increased by 1% across the board to all categories and the number of items on the Special Import Licence list has also been increased.
- (vii) India Brand Equity Fund has been launched to build up a brand image for Indian export products abroad.
- (viii) With a view to involve States/Union Territories in promotion of exports, one State Corporation in each State/Union Territory has been accorded Export House status irrespective of past export performance.
- (ix) Better and continuing Inter-ministerial coordination and interface with Trade and Industry to further streamline and simplify procedures relating to Foreign Trade transactions

#### Silk Industry

\*438. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States selected under the National Sericulture Project and the details of work being undertaken under the Project;

(b) the financial assistance received so far from the World Bank and Swiss Development Corporation for the Project; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :  
(a) A World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation assisted National Sericulture Project is being implemented in 5 traditional sericulture States namely Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir and on a pilot basis in 12 non-traditional States namely Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

Under the project, the components financed are development oriented with several innovative and

synergic constituents. Besides creation of substantial infrastructural facilities by the States and CSB for the discharge of functions like the supply of quality basic and rarer seed, markets for decentralised private rearmers and reelers, research and development and training facilities for on-farm and off-farm activities the project has also attempted the incorporation of efforts by Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by assisting 125 NGOs. The progress in quantitative as well as qualitative terms has been significant and on the technology generation and absorption side, progress has ranged from the evaluation of techniques for genetic marketing of live sericulture material to the introduction of low cost energy conserving ovens in reelers' establishments in the country.

(b) The World Bank/Swiss Development Cooperation have disbursed US\$ 120.5 million up to November, 1996 under the project.

(c) The project which commenced in 1989 is closing on 31st December, 1996.

#### Investment in Coal Sector

\*439 DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total capital investment made in coal sector as on March, 1996 and at the time of nationalisation of the Coal Industry;

(b) the investment made in the sector during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the Government propose to invest more funds in coal sector in view of the increasing demand of coal in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). A Statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d). As per the New Economic Policy of the Government of India stipulating self-sufficiency in public sector undertakings, the budgetary support to Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been reduced during the Eighth Plan period. However, capital investment in CIL and SCCL will increase during the Ninth Plan period by progressive increase in internally generated resources of these companies and their commercial borrowings. In order to enhance the borrowing capacity of SCCL and CIL, certain capital restructuring steps have been taken by the Government of India in 1994 and 1996 respectively. In June, 1993 the Government have amended the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to enable captive coal mining by the private sector and this step will improve the investment in the coal sector. Besides, the partial deregulation of coal prices introduced in 1996 have also improved financial health of these companies.